

0 the layman I say collectively criticizes us for... They say, 'Well, after the
1 case is over with and he is yelling at that lawyer in court and he is how-
2 beating or criticizing that lawyer he will be out over in the saloon across the
3 street having a drink with him.' Yes, we will. We're professionals and we
4 have got to know each other so that we can whittle these trials down and get
5 in and out of court in a hurry. I think you would want us to be friendly. As
6 long as... In court, we don't do anything or pull any punches."

24 CRANE:

25 "All the time that I grew up and, frankly, Fred Cook's book
26 notwithstanding I haven't really read too much that has convinced me other-
27 wise. I have always felt that one of the great, you know, strong, devoted
28 Americans was J. Edgar Hoover. Now, of late, it has become the fashion
29 for some reason to put the blast on J. Edgar Hoover and the FBI and you
30 have been in the forefront of the blasters."

38 BELLI:

39 "I have always felt this way. I can start in by saying that I
40 think the cops in this country are a dedicated class of people. I think
41 the guy that goes down in the cellar with out without a gun and brings
42 the fellow down there, brings him out without the tear gas. You'll find
43 that 90 percent of the cops will do that. They are courageous, they're
44 honest, they're not on the take, they're not in the business, they're not
45 crooked. They're dedicated--without them we couldn't have a country.
46 With Edgar Hoover, I think he has built up an elite corps. I think that
47 when an FBI man gets on the stand he has a feeling this man is guilty or

0 or why would he be brought to trial? We are in here to prosecute.

1 Maybe the rules of evidence the Supreme Court has now is coddling

2 the criminals doesn't work out so well so I've got to shade the evidence

3 of the testimony a little bit and I've got to do justice. The spirit of the

4 esprit de corps is the worst thing about it. I think that we allowed a

5 system, a sort of police state within a country, a democracy to grow up.

6 What Cook said frightened me. This inside the FBI, about Hoover. The

7 ideology of the man at graduation (sic). The boys having to come to

8 him with certain colored stockings, a certain necktie, not smoking

9 a cigarette, having to bow when they meet him. All these sort of things

10 remind me very much of the men as they would go into the presence of

11 Herman Goerring. These things don't belong in a democracy. He has

12 brochures on most of the people in the United States. His counterpart

13 on the West Coast is Chief Parker. Chief Parker has brochures on

14 most of the people in the West."

15 GRANE:

"You mean the Chief of Police of Los Angeles?"

16 BELLE:

"In Los Angeles."

17 GRANE:

"Why the hell should he have a brochure on everybody?"

18 BELLI:

"I'd like to see the two of them at the corner of Hollywood

19 and Vine fighting each other with their brochures. I'd like to be the

20 -- arbiter--pull some of those out (sic)."

0 "Les, I think that we're all aware that Chief Parker
1 aspires to Mr. Hoover's position, which I think Mr. Hoover has held much,
2 much too long. If we won't let a President stay in that long why should
3 we allow this man who is head of this police organization to stay in there
4 as long as he has. He has brochures on every prominent citizen of
5 the United States."

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11 "Why is Chief Parker gathering these brochures and
12 portfolios on the prominent citizens of the West? We don't need those
13 in a democracy. Why do the two of these need these overlapping brochures
14 on all of our people. I think that's something that is completely foreign
15 to a democracy. Something like that they did in Unter den Linden. That
16 was the beginning of a police state. Over there they said it couldn't
17 happen here and it did happen. I think that this is where something like
18 that could happen here and I'd like to see them have a change down there.
19 I thought Bobby Kennedy was going to change him. I thought his brother was
20 going to change him."

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0 to impeach Warren and the Supreme Court is bad. He has the guts to say
1 this sort of stuff. I think that if he knows who all of these people are
2 then he ought to move out against them. Why don't the people in Congress
3 say something? Does he have something on our Senators? Does he have
4 something on our Congressmen that no one will ask him to give an
5 accounting when he says I know who they all are but I'm not doing anything?
6 I think that these are questions that can be answered only by the Senators
7 and Congressmen."

8 CRANE:

9 "The question that I raise is, certainly a gentleman that has
10 dealt with the law as long as you have would seem to base your evidence on
11 certainly a much stronger case than the writings of one fellow who has been
12 pretty generally discredited."

13 BELLI:

14 "I base it on my own experiences in court. Every time we
15 have an FBI man in court we're headed for trouble because I think that the
16 FBI men in the cases I have seen have shaded evidence and again there's
17 this thing of the esprit de corps. If they've indicted somebody they've got
18 to have a 90-percent record of convictions and if they're in there testifying
19 against the defendant they are going to see that there is a conviction. I
20 have that feeling and I think that every defense lawyer in this country and
21 any part of this country will tell you the same sort of a thing. Whether the
22 FBI man wants to shade his testimony or not once he's in that organization,

he's going to go for Mr. Hoover and that organization for a conviction regardless of whether the man is guilty or not. How, that is as strong as you can make it and I've seen that personally."

CRANE:

"But yet you said the thing about the, the (sic) I've talked to FBI men who have read the book by Cook. As a matter of fact, one of the officials of New York City, one of the license officials, is a former FBI chief. He said the business about the colored socks and the sweaty palms and buying the book is all rubbish."

BELLI:

"All right, I'll give you one right on the nose. The Supreme Court of Arizona. Arizona is that state where the what's his name, slips me all the time, the fellow that ran for President...?"

SOMEONE FROM
THE AUDIENCE:

"Barry Goldwater!"

BELLI:

"Ed Levine was the one who gave a lot of the information in Cook's book and he quoted book and page and everything else about this, and you could say he was a crank but it so happens that he was a lawyer. He goes to Arizona. He passes the bar examination. He wants to practice in Arizona. The State Bar of Arizona says that he is not ethical, that he is of bad moral character and they won't certify him to practice law even though he has passed the bar examination. He asked why and they say because you criticized Mr. Hoover in that book. Well, he took a petition and here's where we come into the evidence. Ex Parte Levine in the Supreme Court of Arizona,

0 In the specific reports of the Arizona State Reports of January of this
1 year, the Supreme Court of Arizona was amazed that the State Bar would pre-
2 vent this man from being a lawyer and saying he was unethical. Because
3 of this, they overruled the State Bar and allowed him to become a lawyer
4 in Arizona. Now, I think when a State Bar in any state says the man is
5 unethical because he criticizes a man in this country, I think that has
6 gone pretty far.

7 A lawyer's job is to criticize. I think a lawyer's job is
8 to be controversial. I think a lawyer's job is to be a leader, to stir up
9 controversy so that there will be light on these controversial subjects.
10 I don't think Mr. Hoover wants it that way."

11 "Aren't you in trouble yourself with the American Bar
12 Association?"

13 "They're in trouble with me--that's the way I like to look
14 at it. Everything is relative in this life."

15 "Hasn't there been a move, in fact, to oust you from the
16 American Bar Association?"

17 "I don't know what they're doing presently. After the
18 Ruby case they were going to try me in the top floor of the Statler Hotel.
19 Now, I shouldn't have said--asking where I was going to be tried--whether
20 I was going to be tried on the top floor near an open window or not and I
21 didn't want to go down there. But I remember I wrote them a letter.

0 I said I'd be damned if I'd resign now. I was going to let them kick me
1 out and see why I was unethical. If it was solely because of what I had
2 said at the end of that trial that I tried down in Texas. It was the only
3 reason that they assigned--and again this feeling that lawyers can't say
4 anything, can't criticize. That we should bear the wounds of our client
5 and file a formal petition to the Supreme Court. Heavens, by the time
6 you file petitions to the Supreme Court the man might be hanging to
7 the nearest limb of a tree and it could be like that too."

8 CRANE: "If they toss you out of the American Bar Association, can
9 you still practice law?"

10 BELLI: "I don't have to belong to the American Bar Association.
11 You can take books out of their law library. Bob Considine said it was
12 like being drummed out of the book-of-the-month club.—He said that.
13 Not I."

FBI

Date: 8/2/65

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Belmont
Mr. Mohr
Mr. DeLoach
Mr. Casper
Mr. Callahan
Mr. Conrad
Mr. Felt
Mr. Gale
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Sullivan
Mr. Tavel
Mr. Trotter
Tele. Room
Miss Holmes
Miss Gandy

Transmit the following in _____

(Type in plaintext or code)

AIRTEL

(Priority)

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI
ATTENTION: CRIME RECORDS

FROM : SAC, NEW YORK

SUBJECT: MELVIN BELLI
INFORMATION CONCERNING

Attached for the information of the Bureau is the audio portion of ABC's TV Show, Nightlife, which was seen and heard on Tuesday, 7/20/65. This tape consists of an interview between LES CRANE, TV personality and MELVIN BELLI, JACK RUBY Attorney. During the early part of the tape, which is marked, BELLI makes several uncomplimentary remarks about the Director and the FBI. Among other things, BELLI states that the Director has been in the FBI too long and that FBI Agents shade testimony because they must maintain 90% convictions. He goes on to compare the Director with Chief PARKER of LA by indicating that they both maintain folders on all prominent citizens which is not necessary in a democracy. BELLI further states that Mr. HOOVER claims to know all about the criminals in the country but then states that he is powerless to act.

The foregoing is merely a succinct resume and the attached tape is furnished for perusal by the Bureau.

ABC advised that the entire tape runs 40-60 minutes, but the portion pertaining to the FBI appears to be about 10 minutes.

2 - Bureau (Enclosure 1)

1 - New York

TO : MAN

3 AUG 3 1965

Approved:

G. C. Wick Special Agent in Charge

5 AUG 3 1965

CRIME RECORDS

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 6-18-80 BY SP12/PLM

ENCLOSURE

FBI

Date: July 27, 1965

Transmit the following in

(Type in plain text or code)

Via AIRTEL

(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

ATTENTION: CRIME RECORDS SECTION

FROM: SAC, MIAMI

MELVIN M. BELLI

MISCELLANEOUS - INFORMATION CONCERNING

An article appeared in "The Miami Herald" on Tuesday, 7/27/65, written by JOHN McDERMOTT, Herald staff writer, concerning an attack made on the Director by MARVIN BELLI, San Francisco criminal attorney. His remarks were made to the newly formed Criminal Law Section of the American Trial Lawyers Convention at the Fontainebleau Hotel, Miami Beach, Florida, 7/26/65.

Mr. BELLI also criticized former Attorney General, now U. S. Senator, ROBERT KENNEDY.

The article is self-explanatory and the newspaper item is attached.

3 - Bureau (Enc. 1) (AM)

1 - Miami

HJM:mjs

(4)

ENCLOSURE

REC 45

EX 105

105-47765
9-9
JUL 28 1965

D. C. Wick

SENT DIRECT

7-28-65

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 6-12-80 BY SP-1/1/80

CRIME RESEARCH

69 Approved: 1005

Sent

M

Per

Special Agent in Charge

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

FBI's Hoover a 'Fascist,' Says Criminal Lawyer Belli

By JOHN McDERMOTT
Herald Staff Writer

Melvin M. Belli called J. Edgar Hoover "an ideological fascist" Monday during an address at Miami Beach. He also took a chop at U.S. Sen. Robert F. Kennedy. "I don't like Edgar Hoover," declared the San Francisco attorney as he opened his remarks to the newly formed Criminal Law Section of the American Trial Lawyers in convention at the Fontainebleau Hotel.

Belli's observations came as he defended the American court system and particularly the U.S. Supreme Court against charges that the courts tend to "coddle" criminals.

He said one of the reasons he doesn't like Hoover is that he has designedly, through his high-powered public relations organization, created such an image of himself that even honest American politicians are un-American in their fear of him and afraid to criticize him even though they know he is an ideological fascist.

Belli went on to say, however, that the principal reason he dislikes Hoover "and his embittered far-rightwingers is because of their snide and surreptitious criticism of the U.S. Supreme Court."

What the courts are doing, said Belli, is protecting the rights of the accused regardless of who they are.

He said Hoover and his adept public relations men "confuse U.S. common law with French civil law 'where practically, an accused man is presumed to be guilty until proved otherwise.'"

As for a lawyer seeking loopholes to keep a man out of jail, this is a duty which every attorney must assume in searching for what-over last ditch technicalities.



Melvin Belli at Convention
... raps Bobby Kennedy, too

Belli said that he has seen these same loopholes and technicalities save the innocent from the death chamber as well as, in some cases the guilty.

"I subscribe to the necessity of a legal system that can boast 'better let 99 guilty go free than convict one innocent person,' he said.

He said that a criminal lawyer has the duty to seek loopholes just as much as it is the job of a corporation attorney to seek technicalities by which his clients can avoid payments of taxes.

Belli hit at Kennedy, the junior senator from New York, and former U.S. attorney general for advocating the use of wire tapping in the apprehension of criminals.

Bobby Kennedy and Mr. Hoover, and their strange

the forces of the far right, want to tap my telephone," he said.

"They want to know what I am saying; therefore, what I am thinking. I'm not a criminal. I've got nothing to hide."

Belli said once his phone is tapped then "someone" will not be satisfied with the exposure of his innermost thoughts but will also want to "assist me in my thinking and tell me how I should think."

Belli said that the Supreme Court in recent years has been fulfilling its highest duty by protecting the individual personal rights of all.

He warned that paralleling the growth of federalism is potential danger of a police state resulting from better communications, and scientific crime prevention facilities.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state)

10A

The MIAMI HERALD

Miami, Florida

Date: 7/27/65

Edition:

Author:

Editor:

Title:

MELVIN M. BELLI
Info Concerning

Character:

or

Classification:

Submitting Office: Miami

☐ Being Investigated

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

0
1 lies such as labor laws and
2 Belli quoted Hoover as
3 saying at Chicago in 1963
4 that justice has nothing to
5 do with expediency. "The
6 FBI will continue to be objec-
7 tive regardless of pressure
8 groups which try to use the
9 FBI to attain their own sel-
0 ish aims to the detriment of
1 our people as a whole."
2 Belli concluded by saying
3 that there is no need to
4 change the so-called "cod-
5 ing laws." He said the
6 crime factor should be to
7 preserve the freedom and the
8 legal rights of the individual

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. Belmont _____
Mr. Mohr _____
Mr. DeLoach _____
Mr. Casper _____
Mr. Callahan _____
Mr. Conrad _____
Mr. Felt _____
Mr. Gale _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Sullivan _____
Mr. Tavel _____
Mr. Trotter _____
Tele. Room _____
Miss Holmes _____
Miss Gandy _____

July 28, 1965

This is the matter which I mentioned to Mr. Tolson telephonically today, 7-28-65. Judge Jim Floyd, Miami, Florida, who is the President-elect of the Former Agents Society has written a strong letter

to the American Trial Lawyers Association literally taking Belli apart. Floyd strongly defends the Director and the FBI. He called this morning to quote me passages from his letter. The letter will be mailed to the same papers that carried Belli's scurrilous allegations. Floyd told me that Belli was the "laughing stock" of Miami following his remarks. Nevertheless, the former Agents desire to take Belli apart because of his stupid allegations.

C. D. DE LOACH

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 6-18-88 BY SP1TAP/Edm

July 19, 1965

Dear Mr. Hoover,

I have been viewing
the Les Crane Show - for
the second time.

I hate to admit to his
being from our area (al-
though I hear San Francisco
is referred to as Red City
in some other areas, so
this is just another bad
point) but Mel Belli is
spewing his venom on
this program - against you
this time. Last week I
heard even worse remarks
about S.F. Police Chief Cahill,
so I guess Mr. Cahill is
in good company.

My reason for writing is to say I applaud you and your organization. I hope you never retire - although I know that is being selfish, and that you must get very tired, both in body and spirit, at times.

There are many who are aware of at least some of the troubles arising - with regards law (and lawlessness), our country in general, and Communism in one particular. Sometimes I wonder if there is any hope for the future of us all. I worry about

my young children being responsible for the massive disaster incurred by our past and present governments. Our giant steps towards Socialism and, yes, Communism.

Our family and some friends are trying, too.

Writing Congressmen, reading and talking to others.

But we seem to reach so few - and none are too talented in any communication field.

I'm sorry, I'm off the beaten track.

I do thank you for the
services you've performed
for our Country. You
are appreciated by the
majority of Americans.

Respectfully,

b7C

[REDACTED]

10



Mr. Tolson	_____
Mr. Belmont	_____
Mr. Mohr	_____
Mr. DeLoach	_____
Mr. Casper	_____
Mr. Callahan	_____
Mr. Conrad	_____
Mr. Felt	_____
Mr. Gale	_____
Mr. Rosen	_____
Mr. Sullivan	_____
Mr. Tavel	_____
Mr. Trotter	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Miss Holmes	_____
Miss Gandy	_____

CH

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EXP. PROC.

39 JUL 26 1965

00-01-9

CORRESPONDENCE

b7C



17C
9-27-65 log

DFC
mnc

TRUE COPY

July 19, 1965

Dear Mr. Hoover,

I have been viewing the Les Crane Show - for the second time.

I hate to admit to his being from our area (although I hear San Francisco is referred to as Red City in some other areas, so this is just another bad point) but Mel Belli is spewing his venom on this program - against you this time. Last week I heard even worse remarks about S. F. Police Chief Cahill, so I guess Mr. Cahill is in good company.

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There are many who are aware of at least some of the troubles arising - with regards law (and lawlessness), our country in general, and Communism in one particular. Sometimes I wonder if there is any hope for the future of us all. I worry about my young children being responsible for the massive debts incurred by our past and present governments. Our giant steps towards Socialism and, yes, Communism.

Our family and some friends are trying, too. Writing Congressmen, reading and talking to others. But we seem to reach so few - and none are too talented in any communication field.

I'm sorry, I'm off the beaten track.

REC-8

16 JUL 30 1965

CONTAINED

INDEXED

DATE

6-18-80

BY

SP2TAP/Can

Respectfully,

Address per envelope:

REC 8

105 - 49865 - 34

~~417-5-50520~~

July 29, 1965

FBI

READING ROOM

JUL 29 3 01 PM '65

Dear [REDACTED]

I received your letter of July 19th and want to thank you for your thoughtfulness in writing as well as your complimentary comments concerning our work. I can assure you the support you expressed in your communication means a great deal to all of us in the FBI, and we will strive to merit your continued approval.

It is indeed a pleasure to hear from individuals who are aware of the menace communism poses to our freedoms. You may wish to refer to my books, "Masters of Deceit" and "A Study of Communism." These were written to acquaint readers with the strategy and tactics of communists, both in this country and abroad. These books may be available at your local library.

Enclosed is some material which I trust you will find of interest.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

MAILED 25

JUL 30 1965

COMM-FBI

Enclosures (2)

Communism and the Knowledge to Combat It!
Let's Fight Communism Sanely!

NOTE: Correspondent is not identifiable in Bufiles.

DFC/ufp

(3)

- Tolson
- Belmont
- Mohr
- DeLoach
- Casper
- Callahan
- Conrad
- Felt
- Gale
- Rosen
- Sullivan
- Tavel
- Trotter
- Tele. Room
- Holmes
- Gandy

66 AUG 6 1965

MAIL ROOM TELETYPE UNIT

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 6-18-80 BY SP2TAP

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

Tolson _____
Belmont _____
Mohr _____
DeLoach _____
Casper _____
Callahan _____
Conrad _____
Felt _____
Gale _____
Rosen _____
Sullivan _____
Tavel _____
Trotter _____
Tele. Room _____
Holmes _____
Gandy _____

TO : Mr. DeLoach
FROM : M. A. Jones
SUBJECT: "PLAYBOY" MAGAZINE
SEPTEMBER, 1965, ISSUE

DATE: 8-27-65

The September, 1965, edition of "Playboy" magazine contains no references to the Director or the FBI with the exception of two letters to the editor dealing with "Playboy's," June, 1965, interview with San Francisco Attorney Melvin Belli.

My memorandum of May 18, 1965, set forth the egomaniacal ramblings of Belli, the unscrupulous publicity seeker who has been aptly characterized by the Director as a "shyster."

Two letters to the editor in the attached September, 1965, edition of "Playboy," (pages 7 and 10), one from Dr. Stephen D. Bourgeois, Evreux, France, and the other from Ralph P. Yates, Fresno, California, take issue with Belli's unjustified criticism of the Director and others. Both Yates and Dr. Bourgeois express confidence in the Director and the FBI.

Bufiles reflect nothing identifiable with either Dr. Bourgeois or Mr. Yates.

RECOMMENDATION:

For information.

Enclosure

- 1 - Mr. DeLoach
- 1 - Mr. Gale
- 1 - Mr. Rosen
- 1 - Mr. Sullivan

JRH:smg
(8)

NOT RECORDED

178 SEP 13 1965

6 SEP 12 1965

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 6-19-80 BY SP-100/100

SEARCH

91-18955-1

ORIGINAL FILED

9-9-65

105-49865-
Airtel

To: SAC, Los Angeles

From: Director, FBI

Subject: [REDACTED]

(RESEARCH) CRIME RECORDS

Buded 9-16-65.

Bureau desires to identify captioned individual. No additional information such as residence or employment is known by the Bureau and he is not identifiable in Bufiles. [REDACTED]

1 - Mr. Tolson

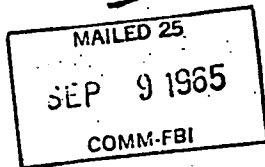
1 - Mr. DeLoach

1 - Follow-up 9-16-65

NOTE: [REDACTED] taking an

issue with unjustifiable criticism of Director by Attorney Melvin Belli. [REDACTED] is not identifiable in Bureau files and Mr. Tolson has requested that he be identified.

JRH:lok
(7)



ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 6-18-80 BY SP-11/1/80

57 SEP 21 1965

TELETYPE UNIT

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Mr. DeLoach

DATE: 9-17-65

FROM : M. A. Jones

SUBJECT: [REDACTED] b7C

Remymemo 8-27-65.

Referenced memorandum mentioned that one [REDACTED] had written [REDACTED] vigorously disputing unjustified criticism of the Director made by notorious San Francisco Attorney Melvin Belli.

[REDACTED] not identifiable in Bufiles and Mr. Tolson requested that an attempt be made to identify this individual.

The Los Angeles Office was instructed to conduct a discreet inquiry in an attempt to identify [REDACTED] Los Angeles has replied by airtel of 9-14-65 advising that this person cannot be identified.

[REDACTED] They point out there are innumerable individuals name [REDACTED] telephone and city directories but no one [REDACTED] There is no information in Los Angeles files identifiable with [REDACTED]

RECOMMENDATION:

For information.

105-49865-
NOT RECORDED
145 SEP 21 1965

- 1 - Mr. Tolson
- 1 - Mr. DeLoach
- 1 - Mr. Gale
- 1 - Mr. Rosen
- 1 - Mr. Sullivan

JRH:smg
(8)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 6-16-80 BY SP2TAP/EPm

6 SEP 21 1965

10 OCT 11 1965

T. []
W. []
DeLoach []
Casper []
Callahan []
Conrad []
Felt []
Gale []
Rosen []
Sullivan []
Tavel []
Trotter []
Tele. []
H. []
G. []

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

FBI

Date: 2/9/67

Transmit the following in _____

(Type in plaintext or code)

AIRTEL

AIRMAIL

(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI -- ATTENTION CRIME RECORDS DIVISION

FROM: SAC, CINCINNATI (62-3020)

MELVIN BELLI
MISCELLANEOUS -- INFORMATION CONCERNING

Remytel 2/9/67.

Enclosed herewith is the newspaper article containing comments made by BELLI which appeared in the Cincinnati Enquirer of 2/9/67, page 45.

3 - Bureau (Enclosure)
1 - Cincinnati

WBS:LM
(4)

C. C. Wick

105-49865
FEB 14 1967
NOT RECORDED

11 FEB 25 1967

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 6-18-90 BY SP2TAP/Com

CRIME RESEARCH

61 FEB 17 1967

Sent _____ M Per _____

Special Agent in Charge

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Ruby Lawyer Aims His Gripes

Attorney Melvin Belli un-
derlined a half dozen unor-
thodox observations in
Cincinnati Wednesday — in-
cluding one to the effect
that J. Edgar Hoover is an
"American Franco" who
could have been sent pack-
ing years ago.

The flamboyant West
Coast attorney, speaking for
the record at all times, was
preparing to go before the
U. S. Sixth Circuit Court
Appeals today to argue
an oil-rights case for 5000
Kentuckians.

He granted an interview
in his room at the Hotel
Marshall Hilton, where he
and Jerry W. Nall, Owens-
boro, Ky., lawyer, were put-
ting finishing touches on
what he called a "simple
case," against the U. S.
government.

Mr. Belli was dressed in
casual fashion — plaid
sports jacket and blue turtle
necked sweater. But he was
not a casual man as he
proceeded rapid-fire from
the controversial subject to
another, grabbing his large
green-rimmed glasses on and
his nose to make points.

Mr. Hoover's name came
up in discussion of U. S.
Supreme Court decisions
which have been blasted by
SI and local police alike
as being tailored to coddle
criminals.

First, he said, the U. S.
Supreme Court has done ab-
solutely nothing unusual "if
you know your civics." "It
is just making state courts
out of what has been done all
along in Federal Courts."

This made him think of
Hoover, long-time direc-
tor of the Federal Bureau of
Investigation.

"Hoover is one of the most
evil men in this country,"
the attorney declared, add-
ing, "and I'm satisfied that
the Kennedys wanted to get
rid of him."

He continued: "Hoover
has tried to undermine the
U. S. Supreme Court while
talking about patriotism. I
think if he had been in Ger-
many he would have been
favored more than any of
the sub-leaders under Hit-
ler."

"The very idea of him
making people wash their
hands before he'll shake
with them . . . making the
man working under him
wear certain ties or shirts
for the chief won't like
you."

Mr. Belli gesticulated with
his eyes closed. "It is so
amazing that the
American public has sent
this American Franco pack-
ing years ago."

The lawyer paused, but
not for long.

Gov. Ronald Reagan of
California, he said, couldn't
do more if he tried to make
himself unpopular.

"It's almost impossible to
impeach a governor, but if
any steps are taken in this
country they will be taken
against him (Gov. Reagan),"
Mr. Belli predicted in a dark
tone.

The City of Dallas, as has
been reported before, is one
of Mr. Belli's chief hates.
Now he has a new one
against the city he left in
anger after Jack Ruby, his
client, was convicted of
killing Lee Harvey Oswald.

"I think Jack Ruby was
treated very carelessly in
that jail," he charged, add-
ing that "Southern prisons"
don't seem to understand
the value of a life.



Melvin Belli

has villains aplenty

"That poor little man was
lying on that floor down
there with a suicide watch
on him around the clock,"
he declared.

"They let him lie there
and let him kill himself
with cancer."

When Mr. Belli was asked
if he had quit the American
Bar Association as he had
threatened to do following
Dallas, he snorted.

"I would get out if they
weren't trying so hard to
get me out. I'm a member in
good standing with the
plaque on the wall upside
down."

He explained the case he
will argue before the Ap-
peals Court today as one
involving the 32,000 acres of
land which make up the
now-abandoned Camp
Breckinridge in Western
Kentucky.

The U. S. government took
it from the 5000 Kentuck-
ians in 1935 under the laws
of eminent domain. Now
\$500 million worth of oil has
been found beneath these
acres and the Kentuckians
want it back. But the gov-
ernment has already sold
the rights to several big oil
companies.

(Indicate page, name of
newspaper, city and state)

45 Cincinnati Inquirer
Cincinnati, Ohio

Cincinnati Post &
Times Star
Cincinnati, Ohio

The Citizen Journal
Columbus, Ohio

Columbus Dispatch
Columbus, Ohio

Dayton Daily News
Dayton, Ohio

Journal Herald
Dayton, Ohio

Date: 1/9/67
Edition: Final
Author: Margaret Josten
Editor: Brady Black
Title: MELVIN BELL

Character: Information
or Concerning
Classification: 62-3029
Submitting Office: Cincinnati

☐ Being Investigated

INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 6-19-90 BY SP-6

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Mr. Belli says the question is purely legal. Kentucky law says land taken under eminent domain should revert to the original owners when the purpose for which it was taken is no longer valid.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Mr. DeLoach

DATE: February 9, 1967

FROM : R. E. Wick

SUBJECT: MELVIN BELLI
INTERVIEW BY REPORTER
"CINCINNATI ENQUIRER"
2/9/67
COMMENTS CONCERNING MR. HOOVER

SAC Soyars of the Cincinnati Office telephoned at 9:35 this morning advising that Melvin Belli is arguing an eminent domain case before the Sixth Circuit U. S. Court of Appeals currently. He was interviewed by a reporter of the "Cincinnati Enquirer." This paper on page 45 this morning contains a picture of Belli who was the attorney for Jack Ruby in the Oswald case. Belli criticizes many people, including Governor Reagan of California, the Dallas police, the FBI and others. He specifically calls Mr. Hoover the most evil man in America, claiming the Director has tried to undermine the U. S. Supreme Court, that he makes FBI Agents wash their hands before he will shake hands with them, and he instructs Agents to wear certain types of neckties.

Soyars is sending in the newspaper clipping. I told him in the event he receives any inquiries, he should tell his newspaper friends this is all ridiculous but otherwise have absolutely no comment to make, since Belli is only after publicity and is attempting to use Mr. Hoover to get it.

RECOMMENDATION:

For record purposes.

- 1 - Mr. DeLoach
- 1 - Mr. Gale
- 1 - Mr. Rosen
- 1 - Mr. Sullivan
- 1 - Mr. Jones

REW:dse

291
6 FEB 23 1967

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DATE 6-18-88 BY SP1TAP/EFM

REC-9

105-49865-35

FEB 13 1967

Tolson
DeLoach
Mohr
Wick
Casper
Callahan
Conrad
Felt
Gale
Rosen
Sullivan
Tavel
Trotter
Tele. Room
Holmes
Gandy

UNRECORDED COPY FILED IN

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

FEB 9 1967

TELETYPE

Mr. Tolson
Mr. DeLoach
Mr. Mohr
Mr. Wick
Mr. Casper
Mr. Callahan
Mr. Conrad
Mr. Felt
Mr. Gale
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Sullivan
Mr. Tavel
Mr. Trotter
Tele. Room
Miss Holmes
Miss Gandy

FBI WASH DC

2MSG

FBI CINCINTI

100PM URGENT 2/9/67 EGB

TO DIRECTOR--ATTENTION CRIME RECORDS DIVISION

FROM CINCINNATI (62-3020) 2P

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DATE 6-18-80 BY SP4/TB/DM

MELVIN BELLI, MISCELLANEOUS - INFORMATION CONCERNING.

RE MY TELCALL INSTANT. ARTICLE APPEARING IN CINCINNATI ENQUIRER,
INSTANT, SETS FORTH INTERVIEW HAD BY NEWSPAPER REPORTER WITH BELL
WEST COAST ATTORNEY. BELLI IN CINCINNATI TO ARGUE CASE BEFORE
UNITED STATES SIXTH CIRCUIT COURT OF APPEALS INVOLVING LANDS SEIZED
BY GOVERNMENT UNDER RIGHT OF EMINENT DOMAIN.

DURING INTERVIEW BELLI MADE SCURRILOUS AND UNFOUNDED REMARKS
CONCERNING DIRECTOR, WHICH APPEAR IN NEWSPAPER ARTICLE. HE COMMENTED
THAT DIRECTOR REQUIRED PEOPLE TO QUOTE WASH THEIR HANDS BEFORE HE'LI
SHAKE WITH THEM UNQUOTE. CLAIMS DIRECTOR IS ONE OF MOST EVIL MEN
IN THE COUNTRY, AND TO BELLI, IT IS UTTERLY AMAZING THAT THE AMERICAN
PUBLIC HASN'T SENT THIS AMERICAN FRANCO-PACKING YEARS AGO, UNQUOTE.

END PAGE ONE

3 FEB 13 1967

666
FEB 17 1967

EX 101

MR. DELOACH FOR THE DIRECTOR

IN THE ARTICLE BELLI ALSO ATTACKS GOVERNOR RONALD REAGAN OF CALIFORNIA, AS WELL AS TREATMENT OF JACK RUBY WHILE INCARCERATED AT DALLAS.

ARTICLE BEING FORWARDED SOG BY COVER AIRTEL.

FBI WASH DC

CC: MR. WICK

FBI

Date: 2/10/67

Mr. Tolson	
Mr. DeLoach	
Mr. Mohr	
Mr. Wick	
Mr. Casper	
Mr. Callahan	
Mr. Conrad	
Mr. Felt	
Mr. Gale	
Mr. Rosen	
Mr. Sullivan	
Mr. Tavel	
Mr. Trotter	
Tele. Room	
Miss Holmes	
Miss Gandy	

Transmit the following in _____

(Type in plaintext or code)

Via AIRTEL

AIRMAIL

(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM: SAC, LOUISVILLE (62-0) (C)

SUBJECT: MELVIN BELLI
MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION
CONCERNING

Re Cincinnati teletype to the Bureau dated 2/9/67.

Enclosed for the Bureau is the original and a xerox copy of an article appearing in the Cincinnati Enquirer, a daily newspaper, Kentucky Edition, on 2/9/67.

The Louisville Office has been advised that a resume of the newspaper article was furnished the Bureau by the Cincinnati Office.

No further action being taken by Louisville

- 3 - Bureau (Enc. 2)
- 1 - Louisville

ENCLOSURE

JMB:lm1

(4)

REC 18

EX-104

FEB 14 1967

12 FEB 18 1967

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DATE 6-18-90 BY SP2 TAP/TCM

Approved: 369

Sent

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Per

56 FEB 21 1967

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(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Ruby Lawyer Airs

BY MARGARET JOSTEN
Of The Enquirer Staff

Attorney Melvin Belli uncorked a half-dozen unorthodox observations in Cincinnati Wednesday, including one to the effect that J. Edgar Hoover is an "American Franco" who should have been sent packing years ago.

The flamboyant West Coast attorney, speaking for the record at all times, was preparing to go before the U. S. Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals today to argue an old rights case for 5000 Kentuckians.

He granted an interview in this room at the Hotel Terrace Hilton, where he and Jerry W. Nall, Owensboro, Ky., lawyer, were putting finishing touches on what he called a "simple case," against the U. S. Government.

Mr. Belli was dressed in casual fashion — plaid sports jacket and blue turtle

necked sweater. But he was not a casual man as he proceeded rapid-fire from one controversial subject to another, grabbing his large horn-rimmed glasses on and off his nose to make points.

Mr. Hoover's name came up in discussion of U. S. Supreme Court decisions which have been blasted by FBI and local police alike as being tailored to coddle criminals.

First, he said, the U. S. Supreme Court has done absolutely nothing unusual "if you know your civics." "It is just making state courts do what has been done all along in Federal Courts."

This made him think of Mr. Hoover, long-time director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

"Hoover is one of the most evil men in the country," the attorney declared, adding, "and I'm satisfied that the Kennedys wanted to get rid of him."

He continued: "Hoover has tried to undermine the U. S. Supreme Court while



Melvin Belli
... has villains aplenty

talking about patriotism. I think if he had been in Germany he would have been favored more than any of the sub-leaders under Hitler.

The very idea of him making people wash their hands before he'll shake with them ... making the men working under him wear certain ties or shirts or the chief won't like you."

Mr. Belli gestured with the eyeglasses. "It is so utterly amazing that the American public hasn't sent this American Franco packing years ago."

The lawyer paused, but not for long.

Gov. Ronald Reagan of California, he said, couldn't do more if he tried to make himself unpopular.

"It's almost impossible to impeach a governor, but if any steps are taken in this

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state)

Page 1

Cincinnati Enquirer

Cincinnati, Ohio

Date: 2-9-67
Edition: Kentucky
Author:
Editor:

Title:
Melvin Belli
Info. Concerning

Character:
or
Classification: 62-0
Submitting Office:

☐ Being Investigated

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DATE 6-19-80 BY SP2TAP/ELM

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ENCLOSURE

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country they will be taken against him (Gov. Reagan), Mr. Belli predicted in a dark tone.

The City of Dallas, as has been reported before, is one of Mr. Belli's chief hates. Now he has a new one against the city he left in anger after Jack Ruby, his client, was convicted of killing Lee Harvey Oswald.

"I think Jack Ruby was treated very carelessly in that jail," he charged, adding that "Southern prisons" don't seem to understand the value of a life.

"That poor little man was lying on that floor down there with a suicide watch on him around the clock," he declared.

"They let him lie there and let him kill himself with cancer."

When Mr. Belli was asked if he had quit the American Bar Association as he had threatened to do following Dallas, he snorted.

"I would get out if they weren't trying so hard to get me out. I'm a member in good standing with the plaque on the wall upside down."

He explained the case he will argue before the Appeals Court today as one involving the 32,000 acres of land which make up the now-abandoned Camp Breckinridge in Western Kentucky.

The U. S. government took it from the 5000 Kentuckians in 1948 under the laws of eminent domain. Now \$500 million worth of oil has been found beneath these acres and the Kentuckians want it back. But the government has already sold the rights to several big oil companies.

Mr. Belli says the question is purely legal. Kentucky law says land taken under eminent domain should revert to the original owners when the purpose for which it was taken is no longer valid.

Really a very simple

case," he claimed, waving the spectacles again.

"I hear Hoffa was over there too this week," he said. James Hoffa, president of the teamsters union.

"How do you think he'll do?"

March 19, 1967

b7C [REDACTED]
Albuquerque, New Mexico
87107

The Honorable J. Edgar Hoover
Department of Justice, FBI
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Hoover:

Melvin Bell
The enclosed article appeared in The Albuquerque Tribune on March 13. Since that time I have watched for an article defending you. To date their have been none.

It is incredible that the public is influenced in this way and some steps should be taken to correct the record. The Albuquerque Tribune and The Albuquerque Journal newspapers both have a Letters to the Editor Column. My proposal to you is; you send me your views on this article and I will attempt to get it printed in The Letters to the Editor Columns, or maybe you would rather contact them directly. I am sure that most readers of these newspapers would appreciate having the record set straight.

Very Respectfully Yours,
[REDACTED]

cu
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EX-103

REC-25 / 65-119866

18 MAR 23 1967

CORRECTION
[REDACTED]

Mr. Tolson
Mr. DeLoach
Mr. Mohr
Mr. Wick
Mr. Casper
Mr. Callahan
Mr. Conrad
Mr. Felt
Mr. Gale
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Sullivan
Mr. Tavel
Mr. Trotter
Tele. Room
Miss Holmes
Miss Gandy

EXP. PROC.

Melvin Belli Sees Link Between FBI Chief, Racketeers, Politicians

March 13, 1971

BY MARY KAY TODESCO
Tribune Staff Writer

Melvin Belli, San Francisco attorney most quickly identified as one-time defense lawyer for Jack Ruby, perched on a bench in the Alvarado Hotel lobby today long enough to take some pot shots at J. Edgar Hoover.

"Intimating there is a conspiracy between the FBI's Hoover and big-time racketeers," Belli said. "How is it that Hoover can tell who are the big gangsters and crooks and state statistics and yet so knowing doesn't go after them?"

"Hoover is a fraud," Belli declared in a quick interview between legal conferences here and a malpractice trial in Chicago.

Belli Says There's Link

Belli linked Hoover and the U.S. underworld through what he said are politicians who are supported by gangster money.

"Does he have a liaison with senators and representatives across the country?" Belli wondered. "It looks like to me if they leave him alone, he'll leave them alone."

Hoover perpetuates an "umbrella of protection" by not cracking down on the big-time racketeers known to him, Belli asserted.

Belli Law Suit

Belli stopped off here to attend a conference over the District Court lawsuit against Albuquerque builder Dale Bellamah and Albuquerque National Bank.

Belli represents Thunder Mountain Construction Co. of Santa Fe and its officers who are suing for \$2.6 million con-



See BELLI, page A-2 Melvin Belli in Albuquerque

BELLI

Continued from Page One

tending Bellamah pressured the bank to cut off financing for a Santa Fe subdivision development.

The dapper attorney, whipped through 15 minutes by nailing Hoover on top of expressing his opinions on recent Supreme Court decisions, the degradation of creativity and imagination in contemporary society, references to his most recent book, "The Law Revolt: 100 Cases," and a prediction that the San Francisco Giants would bring home a pennant.

Legal Profession

A constant stream of remarks poured from Belli on the subject of law and his relationship with the legal profession.

"I've been more or less a renegade from the law and bar associations. It's not arbitrary. I hate uniformity, mediocrity and normalcy and there's too much of it in the legal profession today."

He criticized today's educational institutions for turning out people who are afraid to be different. "The thing they want you to do now is to conform," Belli said.

Agrees With Court

On to the Supreme Court and the recent decisions the flamboyant Belli said that the highest U.S. court is "really concerned with the individual." "In taking care of the minority and the extremists, it makes it safe for the majority," Belli said.

The decisions are "not coddling crime," said Belli—they have served to make state courts operate more like federal courts.

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DATE 6-18-80 BY SP12/p7/8m

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ENCLOSURE

March 27, 1967

REC-25 EX-103

Albuquerque, New Mexico 87107

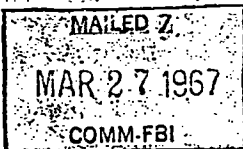
b7c Dear [REDACTED]

I have received your letter of March 19th, with enclosure, and appreciate the interest which prompted you to write.

I would not consider making any public answer to the statements attributed to Melvin Belli in your enclosure, and regard them as being too ridiculous to warrant further comment.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover



NOTE: Bufiles contain no record of correspondent. Melvin Belli is a west coast attorney who is well known to the Bureau. Bufiles contain no record of Mary Kay Todesco, the author of the enclosure. We have maintained cordial relations with the Albuquerque Tribune and its [REDACTED]

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59 APR 13 1967

TELETYPE UNIT

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

Tolson ☒
DeLoach ☒
Mohr ☒
Wick ☒
Casper ☒
Callahan ☒
Conrad ☒
Felt ☒
Gale ☒
Rosen ☒
Sullivan ☒
Tavel ☒
Trotter ☒
Tele. Room ☒
Holmes ☒
Gandy ☒

DATE: June 9, 1967

TO: Mr. Wick *Wick*

FROM: M. A. Jones *M. A. Jones*

SUBJECT: THE "JOHNNY CARSON" TELEVISION SHOW,
6/8/67

On 6/8/67, Melvin Belli, the well-known defense attorney, appeared on the "Johnny Carson" television show.

As you know, guests on this program carry on general conversations with Johnny Carson in an informal manner with respect to their particular professions. During the course of his appearance Belli commented on recent Supreme Court decisions. In this regard, it was pointed out that these decisions impose upon law enforcement agencies, in general, a strict respect of the legal rights of individuals. Belli complimented the FBI by saying, in effect, that's what the FBI has been doing for years -- that is, following what the Supreme Court recently laid down for all to follow.

Belli was also questioned as to his motives for accepting the type of clients he has customarily defended in the courts. His reply was to the effect that he was governed solely by his desire to acquire as full a financial return as possible for his efforts.

RECOMMENDATION

For information.

- 1 - Mr. DeLoach
- 1 - Mr. Wick

DFC:ksf/mls
(6) *ms*

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DATE 6-18-80 BY SP2 TAP EBM

62 JUN 19 1967

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Director, FBI
Attn.: CRIME RECORDS DIVISION

DATE: 6/8/67

FROM : SAC, NYC (62-9464)

SUBJECT: MELVIN M. BELLI
Attorney, San Francisco, Calif.
Information Concerning

He has always been critical of anybody who attempted to
criticise the FBI or J. EDGAR HOOVER

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DATE 6-18-88 BY SP2TAR/CM

REC-40

JFM:MT

- ② Bureau (Encl. 1)
- 1- San Francisco (Info)
- 1- NY 62-9464
- 1- NY 66-7398

SEC 102
EX-102
FBI

105-49865-4

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JUN 9 1967

ENCLOSURE

51 JUN 28 1967 TRP

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REC-40

67C [REDACTED]

ARE OUR COURTS CODDLING CRIMINALS

(No, They're Protecting the Accused)

By

MELVIN M. BELLI

San Francisco & Los Angeles

I don't like Edgar Hoover. One of the reasons I don't like him is that he has designedly through his high-powered public relations organization created such an image of himself that even honest American politicians are un-American in their fear of him and afraid to criticize him even though they know he is an ideological fascist:

But the main reason I dislike Mr. Hoover and his embittered far-right wingers is because of their snide and surreptitious criticism of the United States Supreme Court. They say our Courts, particularly our highest Court, the United States Supreme Court with its recent decisions is "coddling criminals".

What really our Courts are doing is coddling the accused, you and me. Anyone of us who today can quite easily be accused of one of the myriad legislative-created crimes. Hoover has his lobby, Chief Parker of Los Angeles has his lobby and his system of brochures on every prominent citizen in the West, but for us, you and me, there is no lobby unless it is our own "liberal" United States Supreme Court. It is you and me who so easily can become the accused that I'd like to lobby for.

Mr. Hoover and his adept public relations men have confused our common law with French civil law, where promiscuously

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an accused is presumed to be guilty until proved otherwise.

(Their system works for them, but it can't be taken out of context and country for us because the French have other safeguards which we don't have).

While my trial work over the last thirty years has principally been representing personal injury victims in damage suits, I've defended my share of us who have been accused murder, rape, robbery, burglary, assault, arson, sodomy, fraud, pimping, and income tax violation, forgery, real estate violations and overtime parking. Indeed, I started my practice in 1954 representing Father George O'Meara, the priest at San Quentin. He was looking for someone to represent the double damned on San Quentin's condemned row, a Protestant (so there wouldn't be any claim of bias or favoritism) and, one who'd work for free. It was my duty to look for those last ditch "technicalities of the law", "loopholes". It was a desperate game with death to the loser.

So, over the years, I've seen some flagrantly guilty go scott free, but I've never been able to bring myself to gloat over these miscarriages of justice (as have some trial lawyers in recent magazine articles) because I've also seen these same "loopholes" and "technicalities" of the law save the innocent who otherwise would have perished. I subscribe to the necessity of a legal system that can boast "better let 99 guilty go free than convict one innocent person".

I still look for the law's "loopholes" because it's my duty just as much as it's the job of a tax lawyer to help his

0 corporation legally avoid the payment of taxes. We try to keep
1 our work as objective as surgeons. And we know that the next
2 session of the legislature pretty well plugs up the loophole
3 that should be plugged. Law is morality and morals change even
4 the "immutable" constitution with its precisely written and stud-
5 ied sentences changes -- though this is denied. Each succeeding
6 generation of judges says what they think those words were meant
7 to convey.)-

8 These "loopholes", these "technicalities of the law",
9 which to some policemen are "coddling of accused" really are
10 basic protections against invasions of human rights. They're
11 much more essential to our modern society and well-being than
12 the "technicalities" of the small print in insurance company con-
13 tracts, which are so very legal -- and about which no one seems
14 to be doing very much.

15 It's the trial lawyers who should be explaining, what
16 are these "technicalities", what is their true purpose, that they
17 are not making criminal convictions impossible, where they came
18 from in the first place and why we still have them. But, too
19 many of today's law schools know as little about and the reasons
20 for constitutional safeguards as laymen.

21 Recently, at Purdue, Indiana, when high school students
22 were questioned about the third degree, a third of them said
23 that the third degree was "all right".

24 Along with the complaint that we're "coddling criminals",
25 is the feeling that our common law is outmoded, technical and